

DECLARATION OF SPECIAL AGENT JOSEPH P. BRINE, II

I, Special Agent Joseph P. Brine, II, declare as follows:

1. I am a Special Agent ("SA") with the Federal Bureau of Investigations ("FBI"). I have knowledge of the facts set forth herein and could and would testify to those facts fully and truthfully if called and sworn as a witness.

2. On March 3, 2015, the Victim of the extortion scheme met with the FBI (including myself) and described the defendant's previous and continued extortion attempts threatening Victim's reputation (mostly via cellular telephone).

a. During this meeting, the Victim explained that as a result of the extortion, the Victim had already wired the defendant \$500,000 and had given defendant possession of the Victim's Audi r8.

b. Also during this meeting, defendant sent the Victim extorting text messages from phone number 916-420-7906, demanding additional money and a condominium, and then ultimately \$1,000,000 in cash. I and the other agents present reviewed those text messages and directed the Victim to respond. Specifically, the Victim was directed to arrange a meeting between defendant and an undercover agent, who would pose as the Victim's associate, to deliver more extortion proceeds to defendant.

3. The undercover operation was ultimately scheduled for March 4, 2015, at a Starbucks coffee shop in El Segundo, California (the "Starbucks").

4. Just hours before the March 4, 2015 meeting, defendant called the Victim and indicated that he would not be coming alone. This call was recorded at the FBI office by SA Jaime Aguirre, who was with the Victim. SA Aguirre called me before the undercover meeting

1 began and told me about the recorded call. At the time, I was with
2 other agents conducting surveillance at and outside the Starbucks in
3 preparation for the undercover meeting with defendant. From this
4 call, I and the other agents anticipated that defendant would be
5 accompanied to the Starbucks by another individual or individuals.

6 5. On March 4, 2015, FBI SA Sean Sterle, posing in an
7 undercover capacity as the Victim's associate, met with defendant
8 inside the Starbucks to deliver the title to the Audi r8 and
9 \$1,000,000 in cash to defendant. Minutes after they met inside the
10 Starbucks, I observed defendant being arrested. I was informed by SA
11 Frank Aimaro that the 916-420-7906 cellular phone, used in by
12 defendant in the extortion, had not been found on defendant's person.

13 6. Immediately after defendant was arrested, agents began
14 canvassing the Starbucks parking lot to locate any other potential
15 participants in the extortion scheme. SA Jonathan Bauman saw Etienne
16 Yim ("Yim") sitting in the driver's seat of a Ford Focus in the
17 Starbucks parking lot and began to question him. After questioning,
18 SA Bauman placed Yim in handcuffs on suspicion he was involved with
19 the extortion. After Yim's detention, I briefly looked inside the
20 car and observed a cellphone on the center console of passenger
21 compartment next to a partially-open backpack. I then asked Yim, who
22 was sitting on the curb, for consent to search the car. Yim gave me
23 consent to search his Ford Focus. However, before the search, I
24 asked SA Aguirre to call the 916-420-7906, the number of the phone
25 defendant had used to communicate the extortion threats, because the
26 phone had still not been located. SA Aguirre had the Victim call
27 916-420-7906 and I heard a phone begin to ring from inside Yim's Ford
28 Focus. Yim then told me that the Samsung phone and backpack belonged

1 to defendant. This led me to believe that the Samsung phone in the
2 Ford Focus was the phone used by defendant in the extortion.

3 I declare under penalty of perjury under the laws of the United
4 States of America that the foregoing is true and correct and that
5 this declaration is executed at Los Angeles, California, on April 27,
6 2015.

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9 SA JOSEPH P. BRINE, II
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